

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0381

3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, KU
SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE

REF: (Q) STATE 4508 (B) GENEVA 9294

1. DURING COURSE OF REVIEW OF ILO OPERATIONS IN KUWAIT,
EMBOFF AND GOK MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR'S COMPTROLLER
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ABDULLA GHLOOM HUSSEIN DISCUSSED
UPCOMING ILO GOVERNING BOARD (GB) MEETING IN GENEVA, LATE
FEBRUARY-EARLY MARCH, 1977. HUSSEIN WILL BE ON GOK DELEGATION,
WHICH WILL BE HEADED (IN ALL PROBABILITY) BY HIS MINISTER,
SHEIKH SALEM AL-SABAH.

2. HUSSEIN STATED THAT PRIME GOK CONCERN AT GB MEETING WOULD BE
TO PURSUE MATTER MF RESOLUTION IX ON TREATMENT OF ARAB WORKERS
IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. STATING THAT GOK WAS DISSATISFIED
WITH DG'S PROPOSAL TO "CLOSE THE BOOK" ON THE MATTER IN
NOVEMBER 19 REPORXN HUSSEIN OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD "GO BAD"
FOR DG IF HE WERE TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO AGAIN. EMPHASISING
GOK DESIRE TO AVOID "CLASHES" AT MEETING HUSSEIN SAID THAT
GOK WAS WILLING TO "WAIT" TO GIVE THE DG MORE TIME TO PREPARE
A DETAILED REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
RESOLUTION IX. GOK WOTD DEFINITELY SUPPORT RAISING MATTER AT
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NOVEMBER 1977 ILO GENERAL MEETING IF A DETAILED REPORT IS NOT
SUBMITTED BY THEN.

3. HUSSEIN DECLINED TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON POSSIBLE REVIVAL OF
OPSHABL MISSION (PANE. 2 REF A). HE DID COMPLAIN THAT MISSION
WAS UNJUSTIFIED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH RESOLUTION
IX SPONSORS. HUSSEIN INSISTED THAT RESOLUTION IX WAS CLEAR

IN MANDATING ACTION ON IMPROVING CONDITION OF ARAB
WORKFCS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THAT MISSION ITSELF AS
AT THAT TIME UNNECESSARY.

4. COMMENT: FROM ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOK WILL SUPPORT
ARAB EFFORTS TO THE FULLEST AT GEMEVA. WHILE GOK HAS BEEN NOTABLE
IN ITS EFFORTS TO ALIENATE AS FEW PERSONS AS POSSIBLE, AND HAS
GIVEN ASSURANCES TRUUS THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO,
GOK INTERESTS ALSO LIE MOST STRONGLY IN NOT GETTING OUT
OF STEP WITH ARAB BROTHERS. IN PREPARATION FOR PREVIOUS
ILO/WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE/ILO/GENERAL MEETING, GOK
HAD EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE TO AVOID CONFLICTS ON POLITICAL
GROUNDS,

YET, WHEN IT CAME TO THE POINT, FULLY SUPPORTED BOTH
ARAB AND GROUP OF 77 RESOLUTIONS. GOK MODERATION, SUCH AS IT
EXISTS, IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE TACTICAL; I.E. GOK MAY WISH
TO AVOID RAISING ISSUE DIRECTLY AT NEXT GB MEETING, ALLOWING
TIME (UNTIL NOVEMBER) FOR DG TO PRODUCE A REPORT ACCEPTABLE
TO THE ARABS, BUT WILL NOT SUPPORT "CLOSING THE BOOK" EOMTWETELY.

5. ONE INTERESTING COMMENT MADE BY HUSSEIN DURING EARLIER MEETINGS
WAS THAT GOK AND HE, PERSONALLY, RESENTED MANNER WITH WHICH
US LABOR REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO, IRVING BROWN,
PRESENTED US LABOR POSITION ON ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION. HUSSEIN
SAID THAT GOK MUCH PREFKKERRED APPROACH BY BRITISH AND FRENCH,
WHO, WHIL SUPPORTING U.S. POSITION, DID SO IN A LESS ABRASIVE
MANNER. THIS ACCORDS WITH GOK DESIRE, (AS PHRASED BY HUSSEIN)
TO AVOID T"CLASHES". WHETHER A LESS ABRASIV USG LINE AT GENEVA
WOULD INCREASE SUPPORT FOR US POLICIES, HOWEVER, IS QUESTION-
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ABLE, SINCE IT ISTLIKELY THAT GOK WOULD GO ALONG WITH OTHER
ARAB STATES IN ANY CASE.
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